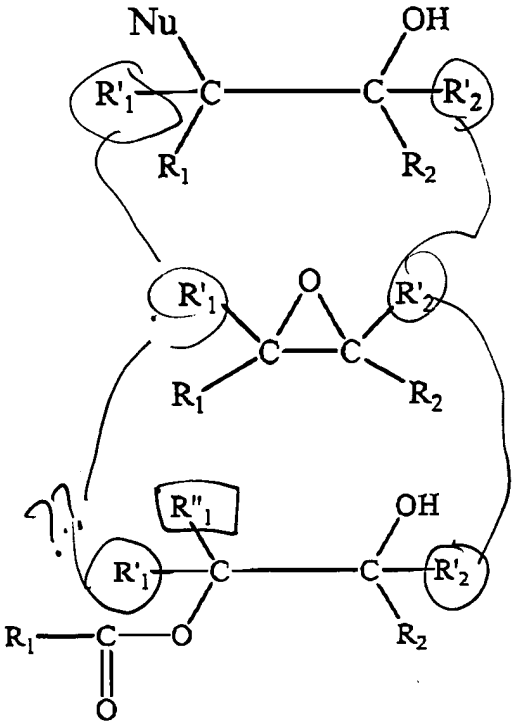
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

110. (Amended) A method for solid phase oligonucleotide synthesis, comprising the steps of:

providing a universal solid support ~~compound~~ selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

one of R_1, R'_1, R''_1, R_2, and R'_2 is selected from the group consisting of an inorganic or organic polymer and a hydrocarbon diradical substituted with an inorganic or organic polymer, and the others are H;

Nu is a nucleophilic group selected from the group consisting of -NH_2, ~~-O-Alk~~, -NHAlk, -$N(Alk)_2$, ~~-NHAC~~ -NH-C_{1-7} acyl, ~~-OAc~~ -O-C_{1-7} acyl, ~~-S-Ac~~ -S-C_{1-7} acyl, and -S-Alk ~~and halogen~~, wherein said Alk is a C_1 to C_7 alkyl group which is optionally

substituted with a halogen, and said ~~Ac is a~~ C_1 to C_7 acyl group is optionally substituted with a halogen;

optionally opening the epoxide ring of said universal solid support;

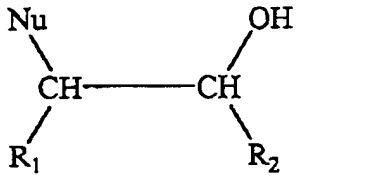
contacting a first nucleotide monomer reagent with the universal solid support to attach said monomer;

attaching a succession of nucleotide monomers in a predetermined sequence to obtain a desired oligonucleotide;

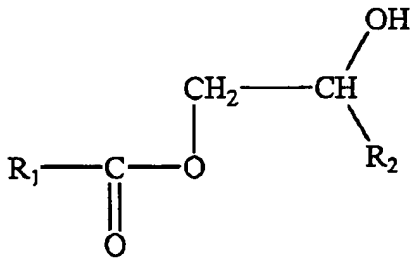
cleaving the desired oligonucleotide from the support in such a manner as to generate a free 3' or 5' OH on the oligonucleotide, and leave the phosphate group on the support.

111. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 110, wherein Nu is selected from the group consisting of -$N(Alk)_2$, -NH~~Ac~~ C_{1-4} acyl, -O~~AC~~ C_{1-4} acyl, and -S~~ac~~ C_{1-4} acyl ~~and a halogen~~, wherein said Alk group is a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group optionally substituted with at least one halogen, and said ~~Ac~~ acyl group is ~~a C_1 to C_4 acyl group~~ optionally substituted with at least one halogen.

112. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 110, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

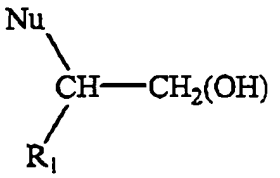


(Ia)

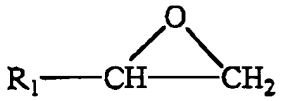


(IIa)

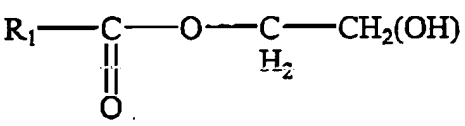
113. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 110 selected from the group consisting of:



(Ib),



(I'b),



(IIb)

114. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the nucleotide monomer reagents are phosphoramidites.

115. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the cleaving of the oligonucleotide is accomplished under basic or nucleophilic conditions.